

ANDERSON, Ind. – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence congratulated three Anderson elementary school students for winning the annual 2011 Ike Weatherly Jr. Black History Essay Contest. Congressman Pence recognized each of the winners on WHBU.

"I want to congratulate Ashlynn Buchan, Siraj Elbey, and Erin Brazel for their heartfelt, well-written essays in this year's annual Ike Weatherly Essay Contest," said Pence. "I am particularly impressed with the caliber of these essays and invite each of them to come to Washington, D.C., and visit my office where their essays will be displayed."

Background on the Winners

Erin Brazel, is a student at Liberty Christian School in Anderson. She wrote her essay on Dr. Fred Spottsville, Jr., a St. John's Cardiologist who recently passed away battling cancer. Brazel and Spottsville attended the same church.

Ashlynn Buchan, is a 5th grade student in Mr. Gniffke's class at North Side Intermediate School in Anderson. Buchan wrote her essay on Dr. James Lewis who is a professor of Theology and Ethics at Anderson University's School of Theology.

Siraj Elbey is in the fifth grade at North Side Intermediate School. Elbey is in Mrs. Rich's class and is the great grandson of Isaac Weatherly, Sr., who was the topic of his essay. His grandfather is Ike Weatherly, Jr., whom the contest is named after.

Background on Ike Weatherly Black History Essay Contest

Isaac "Ike" Weatherly Jr. served on the local school board and was very active in the Anderson

community before he passed away in 2000. The contest emphasizes learning information beyond the classroom, particularly during Black History Month. It is open to all fourth and fifth grade students in the Anderson Community.

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